

AMAA news

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HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH
KESSAB, SYRIA



The dedication of the KCHAG Dining Hall in honor of Rev. Barkev N. Darakjian.

AMAA NEWS

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For the Good of His People

Levon Filian

It has happened and continues to happen! Innocent Armenians under attack again!

The Armenians in Syria, and more specifically in Aleppo and Kessab have been threatened, wounded, kidnapped, killed, displaced, and en masse uprooted and deported from their homeland of 500 plus years.

We cannot remain blind or silent, nor turn a deaf ear, or remain indifferent to the challenge set before us. We must, in unison, make our voices heard. We must make every effort to ask government leaders to intervene and stop such violence. And, yes, we must rise to the occasion to support our brothers and sisters with our prayers, words of encouragement and financial support.



The book of Esther reflects on a similar situation that took place long ago. The Jews were in exile in a foreign land. The residents hated them, and wanted to destroy them for various reasons, such as worshipping a different God, for gain of personal power, for accumulation of wealth, jealousy etc.

Mordecai and Esther became aware of the enemy's plans to kill and destroy their people who lived in exile. They realized that they have been placed in prominent positions by God for a special purpose. Mordecai challenged Esther as follows, "what if you do not say anything at this time? Who knows? It is possible that you became queen for a time just like this." (Esther 4:15)

Esther responded by requesting participation from every one, asking them to fast for three days for this cause. Then, she promised to do her share by petitioning the King to set her people free. "Even though it is against the law, and if I have to die, I will die," said Esther, (Esther 16:4). It is very clear that Mordecai and Esther were prompted by God to bring their share in helping their people.

We may not be able to stop evil from happening, but we can and should seek divine guidance to help overcome evil, by loving our God and our neighbor, our brothers and sisters in Syria.

The book of Esther concludes by saying that Mordecai had gained the highest respect from his people, "that is because, he worked for the good of his people and he spoke for the benefit of his people." (Esther 10:3)

We call upon you, our brothers and sisters, to spend time in prayer and ask God if you have been placed where you are in your **Position** and your **Possession** for a time like this. We call upon you to be a participant in your support as a Mordecai, an Esther, and a person committing yourself to prayer and fasting for your brothers and sisters in Syria. □



As The Father Has Sent Me

Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian

The Christian world is now living in the post Resurrection season. During this time, Jesus revealed Himself to His followers to assure them of His bodily resurrection and to lead them in their future ministries. As Christians, we study this portion of the Bible seriously and learn how to incorporate it into the mission work we do.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." (John 3:16)

From this very famous and well known Bible verse we can clearly see God's mission. After creating the human being and seeing the suffering of the people, God decided to save them through His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus, in turn, shared and believed in the mission of God for the salvation of the world. At the end of His life here on earth, Jesus gave His followers the same mission God had given to Him. "As the Father has sent me, I send you." (John 20:21)

So, when we look at humans with God's perspective, we see their needs. Humans are beings with souls. They have spiritual needs and we need to direct them spiritually to "see" Jesus, to believe in Him and be saved by Him to have eternal life.

Human beings are also beings with physical bodies. They have physical needs and we need to provide food, medication and other needs for them.

Human beings are also social beings. They have social needs and we need to be in touch with them. The following famous poem describes this beautifully:

I was hungry and you formed a humanities group to discuss my hunger.

I was imprisoned and you crept off quietly to your chapel and prayed for my release.

I was naked and in your mind you debated the morality of my appearance.

I was sick and you knelt and thanked God for your health.

I was homeless and you preached to me of the spiritual shelter of the love of God.

I was lonely and you left me alone to pray for me.

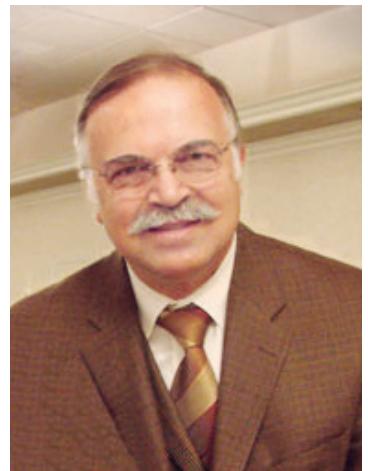
You seem so holy, so close to God, but I am still very hungry, lonely and cold.

If we really care for our neighbors and for our fellow human beings, we need to carry on God's mission, which was given to Jesus. Jesus not only shared God's mission and preached about it, He also demonstrated His mission by taking care of the poor, by feeding them, by becoming their friend and eating with them, and surely by teaching them about God's love and salvation.

In order to share the Gospel in different ways – physical, social and spiritual – we need to become involved in the lives of our neighbors to understand them. We need to spend time with them. We have to engage in dialogue with them and express the love of God to them.

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) shares God's vision and mission for all mankind. This is why the AMAA is involved in so many outreach projects around the world. This is why the AMAA is planning internship programs for all those who are willing to reach out and be part of the mission God has designed for us.

The source of our power is the call God has given to us. We ask that you please consider being a part of God's mission here at the AMAA. □





The American Board and Armenian Evangelical Education (1850-1915)

Joseph Zeronian, Ed.D.

Evangelical Armenians have been profoundly influenced by the work of the American missionaries during the 19th Century. The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions sent hundreds of ministers, teachers, doctors, and administrators to the Near East. Thousands of Armenian children and young adults received their education, churches, seminaries and hospitals were established and relief and succor were provided in times of trouble. Our Protestant clergy were trained and encouraged by the Board and their influence continued well into the 20th Century when those who survived the massacres continued to provide leadership for our people and inspire the next generation.

Who or what was this organization that has influenced every aspect of our Protestant Armenian life? It began in 1806 when five Williams College students gathered in a grove of trees at the Hoosie River near Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and debated the theology of missionary services. In 1808 the Haystack Prayer Group, as they were called, organized themselves to mission to those who were not Christians. Within four years of that gathering (referred to as the Haystack Prayer Meeting) they established the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) in Boston. In 1812 the Board sent its first missionaries to India, then China, Hawaii, and other areas in Southeast Asia, establishing hospitals and schools at its mission stations. Many missionaries undertook to translate the Bible into native languages. As early as the 1820s, missionaries (including single women--quite bold for the time) were sent into the American frontier to mission to the American Indians. In 1819 the ABCFM sent its first missionaries to the Near East, including Turkey and Palestine to "impart the heavenly treasure . . . to Jews, Mohammedans and Pagans." The missionaries soon realized the difficulties of converting

Moslems to Christianity, being confronted with laws in Islamic countries that forbade the evangelization of the Moslems. As a result, in 1829 the Board resolved to establish a mission among the Armenians of Turkey with the hope that they would exert an influence for good throughout the Ottoman Empire.

The missionaries' earliest contact with Armenians was in the mid-1820s when they met with clergy of the Armenian Church who were desirous of reforming the Mother Church. The clergy stressed the need of the masses for education and knowledge of the scriptures. Soon the missionaries saw these conditions for themselves and adopted a policy of evangelizing through education. Thus, concurrently with the appearance of missionaries in Turkey from the American Board there was a growing number of clergy within the Armenian Apostolic Church who worked for reforms. By the 1840s, these two streams of events created an environment of conflict. For over 1500 years the Church had been not only the spiritual head of the people, but also, since there was no nation state after 1375, the temporal head. Those in the church began to view the missionaries and their theology as a threat to the nation.

A confluence of many events led to the creation of the Armenian Evangelical Church in a declaration on July 1, 1846 at the mission chapel (in the home of missionary H.J.O. Dwight) in Pera. This marriage of a cry for reform from within the Mother Church and the support and influence of the missionaries sponsored by the American Board reoriented a significant minority of our people toward reform, education and Western thinking.

Rev. Vahan Tootikian in his *The Armenian Evangelical Church, 1981*, notes the following accounting of the impact on education of the marriage of the Armenian Evangelical Church with the American Board: ". . . as of 1913, there were 10

colleges with 1748 students; 46 boarding and high schools with 4090 students; 3 theological seminaries with 24 students; 8 industrial schools; 2 schools for the deaf and blind, and 369 other schools directly or indirectly connected with the American Board with 19,361 students."¹ These schools had the financial and moral support of the Armenian Evangelical community as well as the Board. By the end of World War I, most of these schools had ceased to exist.

The work of the American Board in establishing schools in the Near East had a profound impact on the Armenian communities, especially in Turkey. To see the impact it may be useful to describe in some detail the workings of two Board school installations in disparate parts of the Ottoman Empire—schools at Bardizag (near Istanbul) and at Kharpert in central Turkey.

Bardizag (now Bahçecik) is a beautiful village high on the mountainside above the eastern most portion of the Sea of Marmara, about an hour and a half drive today from Istanbul. In 1915 it was a village of 10,000 inhabitants, almost all Armenians. The American Board's connection with Bardizag dates back to at least the 1840s when some of its Armenian populous adopted Protestant beliefs. The town became a focus of the Board's labor, as well as an ideal summer retreat for its personnel. In 1855, the Board posted Justin W. Parsons in Bardizag and the village was incorporated into the Izmit field of its Western Turkey Mission. For 15 years, Parsons lived and worked among the Protestant Armenians of Bardizag and nearby towns. Shifting his attention to a new endeavor around 1870, he petitioned his colleagues in the American Board for permission and financial support to open a girls' school in Bardizag. His request





reflected the Board's special concern in this era for the general education of youth, particularly women. In June 1871 Parson's request was approved and funds were allocated to purchase a building.

By the summer of 1873 Parsons had obtained an old cocoonery in Bardizag and equipped it as a school with a residence for personnel. The Board appointed Miss Laura Farnham, recently assigned to the Izmit field to run the new institution. On September 1, 1873 she opened the school and soon had fifty pupils, including seven boarders. The day-students paid a piaster a week for tuition, and some came from as far away as Adapazar to attend classes.

The popularity of the Bardizag school increased steadily in the following years. Close to 75 pupils enrolled in 1879. Besides academic subjects, including mathematics, geography, science and language, they received instruction in domestic skills, such as sewing. The primary aim of the school was to train educators and cultured, capable homemakers. By 1879, some of its first graduates had already started careers as teachers or become the wives of local Protestant pastors.

The same year, 1873, the Board enabled John E. Pierce from Erzurum to establish a similar school for boys. Soon the student body exceeded 130. This number included 80 boarders from 22 different cities and villages in Turkey. The enrollees at the boys' school received vocational instruction. One of the first projects for the carpenters had been to construct desks and chairs for the classrooms. During the 1885 school year, the cobblers produced 150 pairs of wooden clogs, and the weavers turned out 1500 baskets.

In 1884, the girls' school was moved to Adapazar, leaving the boys' school as the only American Board school in Bardizag. Along with the primary school for boys in the 1890s, the Board began operating a kindergarten and an orphanage for boys. Robert Chambers, Sr., a veteran Board employee in Turkey, had replaced John Pierce of the boys' high school in 1891 and guided the Board's work in Bardizag for the next two decades. In 1899 Chambers opened an imposing new building of several stories to house the boys' school which was now called Bithynia High School. Five years later, he erected a spacious, well equipped structure for the orphanage, which had been housed in the former girls' school building since 1897. (Recall that the Hamidian massacres of 1894-96 left



Bithynia High School in Bardizag

many Armenians orphaned, and this was the Board's response to this great need.)

More construction followed so that by 1915 the facilities operated by the American Board comprised a dozen buildings, including Chambers Hall used for assemblies and for church. Chambers Hall is the lone building of the large Bithynia High School complex still standing today. Bithynia High School had a student body of 300. An additional 100 boys occupied an industrial school and home for the poor, which had supplanted the orphanage. The Favre Boys' Home, as it was called, worked in conjunction with the high school to teach needy youth a trade. Besides attending a four-year academic course, residents of the boys' home developed occupational skills, such as carpentry, tailoring, and carpet weaving.

With the cataclysm of 1915, the Board's work in the village ceased and the school's doors were closed. The vast physical plant was vacated, the pupils (mainly Armenians) were sent into exile, and the Chambers family left the country. At the end of the war, the Board recorded the station at Bardizag "abandoned" and rather than reopening at the old site, reestablished Bithynia High School in Istanbul's Erenkoy district, since the Armenian population which had filled the school's ranks were exiled and/or killed and scattered in the massacres which began in Bardizag in early August 1915.

Educational life and opportunities developed rapidly during the second half of the 19th Century in the Vilayet of Mamuret-ul-Aziz with its center the citadel town of Kharpert surrounded by dozens of villages. It was the American Board missionaries who founded the first educational establishments—no picture of Kharpert is complete without a

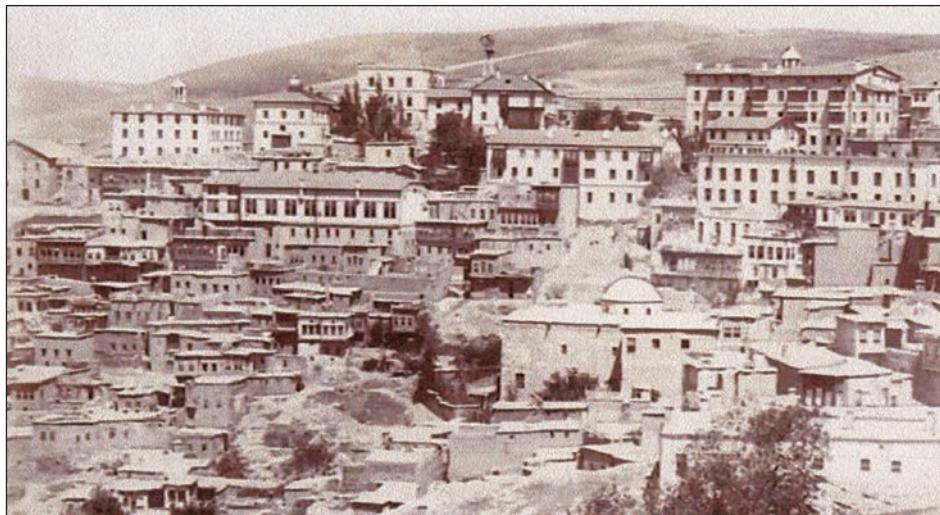


Justin Wright Parsons, Founder of Girls' School in Bardizag, 1873.

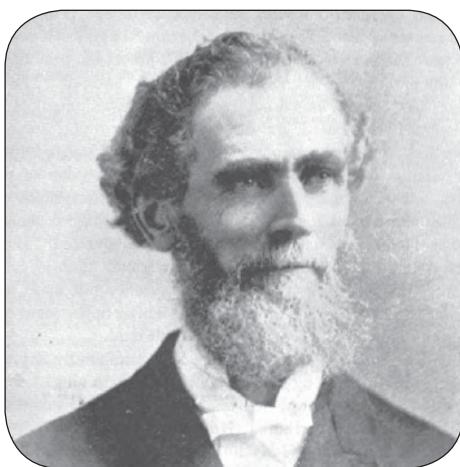
view of Euphrates College standing out as the most handsome, dominant and attractive complex. Soon Capuchin and German educational schools and centers were added.

One of the first American missionaries in the area was George Dunmore, arriving in 1852. He was subjected to persecution and stoning by local Armenians. He persisted convinced of the correctness of the path he was taking, and gained his first followers in Kharpert within a short time. He bought a property on the heights of the town where the Euphrates College was later to be built. He was soon joined by Dr. Crosby H. Wheeler and Orson Allen. In 1859, they founded the Kharpert Theological Seminary. During the same year they also opened their first schools for general education.

Dr. Wheeler remained in Kharpert until 1875 when he returned to the United States and led a campaign to raise over \$180,000 which together with about \$40,000 from the local Armenian community was sufficient to begin construction of a boys' college. It



Euphrates College and Eastern Turkey Theological Seminary in Kharpert.



**Rev. Crosby H. Wheeler, DD,
Founder of Euphrates College, 1878.**

was named Armenia College and opened its doors in 1878 with 34 students the first year. Ten years later at the insistence of the Turkish authorities the name of the college was changed to Euphrates College and was a collection of schools providing education in Armenian to students of various ages. The college kindergarten took children of up to six years of age. Then they transferred to the first school where they remained for three years. Then they moved to the intermediate school for three years and then on to high school for four years. The high school graduates entered college for the final four years. (Effectively, what appears to be the equivalent of an education through junior college in California which results in an Associate of Arts (AA) degree.)

Before World War I began the establishment was a large complex of many buildings. There were five educational buildings, two more for boarders, the president's building, two others assigned to the missionaries

as their living quarters, one for the teachers, an auditorium—Wheeler Hall—that accommodated up to 1500 people, a large playground, a meeting hall-chapel and a trades' training building. There was a water reservoir providing hot and cold running water to the entire complex.

In the year 1902-1903 the total number of students was 1045, of which 540 were boys and 505 girls. During its 35 years of existence—until 1915—there were about 600 graduates of both sexes. It was said that the school had out-grown the facility and prior to the war there were plans to move it to a larger, more suitable site in the plain.

A word must be said about the Euphrates Theological Seminary, the first of the institutions created by the American Board in Kharpert. It provided a three year program including among other subjects Armenian national and church history, classical Armenian, divinity, ethics, history of the Old and New Testaments, public speaking and philosophy. American missionaries and several key Armenians were the teachers in the seminary. The seminary produced 116 graduates during its existence from 1859 to 1903.

The seminary and various schools provided instruction, counselling and spiritual growth to thousands of Armenian youth for over a half century. Even after the Hamidian massacres of 1894-96 when several of the buildings were damaged by fire, the schools rebuilt and continued serving the community. The Genocide and deportations of 1915 finally brought this magnificent enterprise to an end. In June 1915 key members of the staff were arrested, tortured and killed as a part of the general round-up of intellectuals which began on

the night of April 24. The College ceased its operations and was occupied by the Ottoman military, initially used as training camp and later as a military hospital. The College was officially closed after the founding of the Republic of Turkey in 1922.

Nothing remains of this wonderful facility today, but the work begun in Bardizag and Kharpert and other cities and villages throughout the Near East has benefitted us all. Some of our parents, grandparents or other relatives were educated in these schools established by the American Board. The spirit and direction of the early seminaries was picked up in the establishment after the Genocide of the Near East School of Theology in Beirut. Most of the ministers who have served our Armenian Evangelical churches in the past century received all or a portion of their education and training at that institution which continues to this day.

The American Board is no more, having transferred some of its continuing facilities and activities to the United Church of Christ. But in a sense, it continues in all of us. We Armenians, whether Evangelical or Gregorian, have been influenced to a lesser or greater degree by the work of these men and women from New England (mainly Congregationalists) in our midst during the second half of the 19th Century.

I recall the day over twenty years ago when I visited the towns and villages of my family and friends in Turkey. We were visiting what had been the Girls' School in Marash. Next to the main building there is a tiny cemetery where there were a small number of tombstones. I took a moment to read a few. Here was Dr. Samuel Williams, graduate of Harvard College, 1860; Mr. James Samuels, graduate of Bowdoin College, 1865; Mrs. Jane Simmons, Dr. Robert Farber, Yale College, 1871.

I thought to myself--these people could have had successful and prosperous careers in America, but committed themselves to the mission field. Stone after stone cried out to me the commitment and sacrifice that these dedicated missionaries made to help improve the lives of my Armenian people and bring the Word of God to the Near East. It was a silent demonstration of the power of Christ to move us to something greater than ourselves. What a wonderful example to us all. We must dedicate ourselves to continue their legacy and service to our people through the work of the Armenian Missionary Association of America. □



Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) Holds Special Meeting in Beirut, Lebanon

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, AEWC Executive Director

The Executive Committee of the Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) held a special meeting at the headquarters of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE), in Beirut, Lebanon on April 28-29.

In two full days, the Executive Committee dealt with a number of concerns and issues, among which were the following:

1. Status of AEWC. Based on the historical data provided by Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, a general evaluation of the AEWC was made.

It was resolved that Rev. Dr. Tootikian should prepare a bilingual booklet about the history and the accomplishments of AEWC.

2. An Overview of the Unions and Their Outreach.

It was resolved that each Union of the AEWC should try to reach out to those churches that do not belong to one of the five Unions and invite them to establish ties with AEWC.

3. Leadership. The issue of leadership of the future Armenian Evangelical churches and the importance of preserving the legacy and authentic values of the Armenian Evangelical churches were discussed. Among other suggestions a practical one was made that *it would be beneficial if the seminarians of our various church Unions spend part of their academic preparation in Beirut, where Haigazian University and the Near East School of Theology are located, so that they can take advantage of the theological, linguistic and cultural benefits these two institutions offer, as well as to have the opportunity to be exposed to and learn from the Armenian cultural and ecclesiastical life.*

4. The Syrian Armenian Community. The deteriorating situation of the Syrian Armenian Community was discussed.

It was resolved that AEWC will continue its determination to support efforts to help all the Armenian displaced individuals and families and intensify its ongoing support to all the needy. Furthermore, it remains focused on rallying support from all Armenian Evangelical churches, organizations and individuals to help alleviate the suffering of our compatriots.

5. Missions and Outreach Priorities. More than a dozen important missionary and outreach programs were identified and discussed which will be the focus of AEWC in the coming months and years. Of these projects and programs, the Executive Committee *resolved to bring to the immediate attention of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) the following urgent needs:*

- To provide continued financial aid to the displaced people of the Syrian Armenian Community.
- To provide medical insurance to the pastors and religious workers of the Evangelical Church of Armenia, as well as to offer financial support to the retired pastors.
- To increase financial support to the Armenian Evangelical churches in Eurasia to enable them to carry out their ministry more efficiently.

6. Armenian Genocide Centenary Program in 2015

The Executive Committee resolved to appoint a Task Force to coordinate the worldwide Armenian Evangelical observances and implement the basic ideas which were previously agreed upon by the Council. The members of this Task Force are: Revs. René Leonian, Chair, Megerditch Karagoezian and Vahan Tootikian.

Moreover, each Armenian Evangelical community is encouraged to organize commemorative observances on their own or jointly with sister Armenian churches. It was further resolved to request from the Haigazian University administration to organize a symposium concerning the Armenian Evangelical Theology on Genocide and nationhood, the contents of which to be shared with the five Unions of AEWC.

7. Protocol Regarding Movement of Pastors Between Unions. The Executive Committee reaffirmed the resolution adopted by the October 16, 2009 meeting of the Council regarding the movement of the Armenian Evangelical Pastors



Standing L to R: Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian, Rev. Dr. René Leonian, Rev. Megerditch Karagoezian, Rev. Haroutune Selimian, Mrs. Joyce Philibosian Stein, Rev. Garnik Tutikyan, Pastor Hovig Hovsepian. Seated L to R: Rev. Joél Mikaelian, Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Dr. Joseph Zeronian and Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian

various church Unions spend part of their academic preparation in Beirut, where Haigazian University and the Near East School of Theology are located, so that they can take advantage of the theological, linguistic and cultural benefits these two institutions offer, as well as to have the opportunity to be exposed to and learn from the Armenian cultural and ecclesiastical life.

Continued on the following page

Haigazian University News

The Haigazian University Board of Trustees held its Annual Meeting on May 2-3 at the Haigazian University in Beirut, Lebanon. Dr. Ani Darakjian, Board President, presided over the meetings. The Board discussed the successes and the challenges the University is facing and made recommendations on addressing the significant issues. The Board met with the President of the University as well as with the deans, department heads and the student body.

They also discussed plans the University has developed to celebrate its 60th anniversary through the 2014-15 academic year.

A fellowship and appreciation dinner was held at Villa Linda Sursock in Ashrafieh. Among the guests were several members of the Lebanese Parliament, the US Ambassador, His Eminence David Hale and the Armenian Ambassador, His Eminence Ashod Kocharyan.

In his remarks, Haigazian President Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian highlighted the importance of the role the University plays in creating an academic environment, wherein Arab, Armenian, American, and other students from different countries come together to share their diversified, cultural and ethnic values.

Mr. Hale expressed his appreciation on the success of the USAID program which has helped 64 Lebanese students who have demonstrated academic excellence and financial need to participate in this program.

Ambassador Kocharyan expressed his thanks for the unique and special role the Armenian University plays in educating Armenians in the Diaspora. He conveyed greetings sent by the President of the Armenian Republic Serge Sargsyan, and wished the University success in its future endeavors.

On this very special occasion, Dr. Haidostian recognized benefactors Mr. and Mrs. Armen and Salpi Haroutiounian for their generous donation to the University in the sum of \$250,000 for a scholarship fund. □



Haigazian University Board of Trustees



Mr. Armen Haroutiounian and Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian

AEWC... Continued from previous page

from one church Union to another. The resolution states that ***when a pastor receives a call or a short term invitation to serve the church of a sister Union, he should inform both his Union and the sister Union of his plans.***

8. **AEWC Constitution and Bylaws and Amendments.** Due to the evolution of the scope and goals of AEWC and in view of the anticipation of new churches joining the AEWC, a Task Force was appointed to make the necessary amendments to the constitution and bylaws of AEWC. The members of the Task Force are: Revs. Nishan Bakalian, Convener, Megerditch Karagoezian, Joel Mikaelian and Dr. Joseph Zeronian.

* * * *

From the weekend of April 26 to May 6, the UAECNE Central Committee was busy playing host to a number of meetings and activities. In addition to the AEWC two-day meeting during the week of April 27 to May 2, there were meetings of UAECNE, the AMAA and the Haigazian University Board of Trustees. In between there were other activities such as the monthly Pastoral Fellowship of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of Lebanon, a Panel discussion on "The Armenian Evangelical Church Worldwide," a Dinner and Fellowship at the Near East School of Theology, a visit to Catholicos Aram I at Antelias, a public lecture at Haigazian University, visits to the displaced Syrian Armenians in Anjar, visit to the Centers for Armenian Handicapped in Lebanon (CAHL), the Howard Karagoezian Association, a visit to the Armenian Catholic Patriarch Nerses Tarmouni, a formal dinner sponsored by Haigazian University, the KCHAG Dedication Service and Dinner, as well as the Sunday church services where visiting pastors preached. □



KCHAG MOVES FORWARD!

Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian

With so much bad news coming out of the Middle East these days, it was a pleasure to have been part of a significant and joyful event in the life of our Union in the Near East. On Saturday, May 3, over 160 people gathered for a dedicatory celebration at KCHAG (the "Christian Endeavor Summer Center").

Since 2002, following the departure of the last of a series of armed groups, much effort has been put into reclaiming and refurbishing KCHAG through modest local efforts, but the biggest boost came in 2007 when a team of engineers from EMI (Engineering Ministries International) created a refurbishment plan to completely modernize the conference center. With the contributions and labors of many individuals and organizations, such as the AMAA, significant progress in the next phase of that plan was made and shown to the public that day.

The completely refurbished chapel was the setting for the evening worship service, in which many participated, including the President of the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, Rev. Mr. Karagoezian, Interim Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA, Rev. Mr. Melkonian, Executive Director of the Armenian Evangelical World Council, Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, Chairman of the Construction Committee, Mr. Garbis Deyirmenjian, as well as the Armenian Christian ensemble "Nor Yerk", with members reuniting from across the globe, led by its founder, Rev. Nerses Balabanian. A special slide show was also shown, depicting the ruined condition of the buildings, and their current, beautiful state.

Following the service, the attendees proceeded to one of seven locations where a pastor offered a prayer of dedication for the refurbished building. The dormitories and bungalows facilities have been equipped with new flooring, new washrooms, double-paned windows, clay-tiled, pitched roofs, and passive solar hot water tanks. KCHAG will thus be able to host groups of up to 120 campers this summer, and plans are already in place to hold some of the children's and youth conferences there.

The buildings refurbished in this second phase were donated by the following individuals or groups: Dr. George Hagop Aynilian, in honor of Hagop and Jenny Aynilian; Harry Balukjian; Drs. Nazareth and Ani Darakjian, in honor of Rev. Barkev Darakjian; Anahis Derian Boulghourjian in loving memory of Haig Derian; Sian and Mary Harfoushian in loving memory of Sian Harfoushian; Edward and Lucy Janjigian; and Hratch and Kohar Mouradian.

The evening continued with an open-air dinner on the brand new inlaid stone terrace in front of the refurbished dining hall. Again, "Nor Yerk" provided an enjoyable program of Armenian and Christian songs, and an appeal was made for others to join in completing the renewal of KCHAG. The infrastructure work still needs to be paid for, and other tasks remain undone, including building a perimeter fence. But with the prayers, determination and sacrifice of all of us, these conference grounds will surely resume becoming a vibrant center for Christian ministry well into the future! □

Bethel Church Holds Concert

Dedicated to the Syrian Martyrs and the 99th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide

On Saturday, April 5, a special concert was held at the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church of Aleppo, Syria, dedicated to the Syrian Martyrs and the 99th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Archbishops, pastors, musicians, directors of schools, representatives of cultural centers and foundations and Armenians from all denominations and congregations came to the concert with the feeling that there is beauty even in the midst of war.

The concert began with Anjella Daghlian's welcoming words. The "Naregatsi Choir," made up of 40 young people, presented an incredible evening of inspirational songs. The Choir was conducted by Father Yeghishe Elias Janji and accompanied on piano by Nayim Kassis.

At the end of the concert Rev. Haroutune Selimian thanked the Choir and the talented musicians and presented a special gift to



the Choir's Director as an expression of gratitude for the Choir's beautiful performance.

"Today, we witnessed an incredible evening with the 'Naregatsi Choir,'" said Rev. Selimian in his concluding remarks. "Our eyes saw beautiful young people singing from their hearts in a way that has thrilled us and stirred our souls. The Choir gave us a message of hope, power and faith for a brighter future. Today, once again, we pay our respects to all the Martyrs of Syria, and we express our deepest and sincere gratitude to the Syrian Government for protecting our people." The evening concluded with a prayer and Benediction offered by Rev. Selimian. □

Tour To Armenia

On the Occasion of the Grand Opening of the Avedisian School

3-15 OCTOBER 2014



Tour Itinerary

In addition to the October 8th Grand Opening festivities of the new Avedisian School a tour is being planned which may include visits to:

- Garni Temple, Geghart
- Lake Sevan, Kecharis Church
- AMAA Camp Hankavan
- Etchmiadzin
- Monasteries of Khor Virab and Noravank
- Karabagh
- Gandzasar, Shushi
- Armenian Genocide Museum (Dzidzernagapert)
- Armenian Evangelical Church, Yerevan
- Monastery of Datev
- Ohanavank, Ashtarak
- Sardarabad Memorial
- Tour of Yerevan
- Vernisage

Organized by the Armenian Missionary Association of America
For reservations or more information call AMAA at 201-265-2607 or e-mail: info@amaa.org



CAHL Provides Shelter To Kessab Seniors

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me..."

Matthew 25:35-36

On March 21, when the peaceful villages of Kessab, Syria were attacked and bombed, the residents evacuated the villages and their homes early in the morning and fled to the nearby city of Latakia, Syria. With just their clothes on they left their homes. Some of the elderly of the village stayed in their homes.

As the situation worsened, these elderly were also forced to leave their homes. Some were taken to Latakia and others were taken to the only Armenian village Vakef in historical Mousa Dagh, Turkey. In Latakia, most were placed in the Armenian Church where many others who had fled Kessab on March 21 had found shelter.

In May, the elderly people from Latakia were transported to Beirut, Lebanon and were placed in the Armenian Old People's Home of the Center for Armenian Handicapped in Lebanon (CAHL) in Bourdj, Hammoud. Among these people was 95 year old Joseph Saghdejian (also known as Sdalin Baboug or Varjabed Baboug), the well-known retired teacher from Kaladouran, Kessab. Mr. Saghdejian says, "I miss my home and my village, Kaladouran, but I am thankful that the Armenian Old People's Home has given me and my compatriots a shelter and a safe haven."

The Armenian Organizations of Lebanon made special arrangements and prepared legal documents to bring the remainder of the Kessab seniors from Vakef to Beirut. These seniors had left behind all of their important documents when they left Kessab. Eighteen people, most of them in wheelchairs, arrived at the Beirut airport on May 15. Those who did not have a family or friend to stay with, were given shelter at the Armenian Old People's Home.

"We are thankful to the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), the Kessab Educational Association, and the



Karoun Der-Sahagian, Hagop, Asbed and Karoun Jourian



Marta Arabian being treated by the medical staff at CAHL.



Joseph Saghdejian in his room at CAHL.

Syrian Armenian Relief Organization of Lebanon who have made every effort to help these elderly people," said Sebouh Terzian, Director of CAHL. "We have the ability and the space here in the Old People's Home and it is our duty to give them shelter, to care for them and show our love and support."

The management of CAHL is doing its best to meet the medical, physical and moral needs of these precious Armenian people from Kessab who have no place to go.

***Editor's Note:** We thank all individuals and organizations for their prayers and financial support to our brothers and sisters in Syria. Please continue your support which is greatly needed. For additional information or to make a donation, please visit AMAA's website at www.amaa.org. □*



Sebouh Terzian, Director of CAHL.

Avedisian School Wins National Debate

Once again, this year on April 4, the Jinishian Memorial Fund organized a National Debate competition. One hundred eleven schools from Armenia participated in this competitive debate. And, once again, students from the Avedisian School demonstrated their exceptional educational skills by winning first place in this competition.

This is yet another success story and a great reminder to challenge our donors to participate by donating money for the construction and the operation of this School.

For many years, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the Avedisian Family have worked very hard to build a new campus where we can educate as many as 750 students from Kindergarten to the 12th grade. This has become a reality.

The newly built campus will open its doors on September 1, 2014. The grand opening ceremonies are scheduled for October 8, 2014.

We invite each and every one of our AMAA members, friends and donors to prayerfully consider making a donation either toward the construction of the School with a variety of naming opportunities, or to make a donation toward an Endowment Fund which will be used for the ongoing operation of the School.

Please visit our website at amaa.org or call the AMAA offices at 201-265-2607 or 818-937-9840. □



Annenberg Foundation Donates \$155,000 to AMAA

The AMAA has established a good relationship with the Annenberg Foundation. During the last several years the Foundation has shown an interest in the AMAA's educational programs in Armenia. At an AMAA fundraising event held at David and Tina Segel's home, Mrs. Wallis Annenberg and Mr. Gregory Annenberg Weingarten were introduced to the AMAA plans to build a new school in Yerevan, the Avedisian School, to serve the underprivileged children. Since then they have generously donated \$155,000 for this worthy cause. The AMAA is grateful to the Annenberg Foundation for its most recent Grant in the sum of \$30,000 to be used toward the construction of the Avedisian School. We take this opportunity to thank Mr. and Mrs. Joe and Joyce Stein for being instrumental in developing this connection with the Annenberg Foundation. ***Editor's Note: We, at the AMAA thank the Foundation for its generous and continued support for the AMAA and wish the Foundation great success in its endeavors.***



Mirak Family Hosts Reception for Avedisian School

On Saturday May 10, Julia Mirak Kew opened her lovely home in Winchester, Massachusetts to friends for an introduction to Edward and Pamela Avedisian, and to learn about the new Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School and Community Center in Yerevan. The event was co-hosted by Julia's father, Robert Mirak. Julia and Robert are Trustees of the John Mirak Foundation, which generously supports the Avedisian School. In 2012, the Mirak Foundation pledged \$300,000 toward the cost of LEED certification for the new campus. The School will be the first LEED-certified building in Armenia. The Miraks have a particular interest in preserving Armenia's environment. Julia, who is also a Trustee of the

Armenia Tree Project, is thrilled by the partnership established between the AMAA and the Tree Project to provide green roofs at the Avedisian School and incorporate environmental education into the curriculum.

After enjoying a light supper prepared by Debra Giragosian of Bon Appetit Caterers, the 60 guests viewed a short video about the School. Following the video, Edward Avedisian made brief remarks and answered guests' questions about the School's academic successes, the status of construction, and fundraising for an endowment to support ongoing operational costs. He concluded by inviting all in attendance to come to the grand opening celebration in Yerevan on October 8, 2014. □



Hostess Julia Mirak Kew (center) with guests Mary Goudsouzian and Danila Terpanjian.



Co-host Robert Mirak with friend John Piantedosi.



Ed & Pam Avedisian (center) with Avedisian School supporters Irene Chang and Bob Kelly.



Guests Houry Boyamian, Nina & Raffi Festekjian, and Arlette Yegumians.

Easter Programs in Armenia & Karabagh

Քրիստոս Յարեալ ի Մեռելց, Օրհնեալ է Յարութիւնը Քրիստոսի:
Krisdos Haryav Ee Merelots, Orhnyal eh Haroutyuneh Krisdosi.

*"If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even christ has been raised.
 And if christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith."*

1 Corinthians 15:12-14

And, for this reason, we preach the good news of resurrection and we celebrate Easter with such hope for eternal and everlasting life. The ECA and AMAA centers in Armenia make every effort to share the message of resurrection with all who wish to hear the good news. In 2014, 49 Easter plays and messages were presented in 46 towns and villages in Armenia and Karabagh. Over 5,000 children with their families attended these events and heard about the love of God.

Gyumri / Maralik / Artik

On April 26, in Gyumri, the Christian Education Department presented an Easter Play, "Traditions of our Street" which demonstrated how one man could make a difference and change bad traditions into good traditions. The message continued to say that Christ, the Son of God, can change the life of every one. Over 150 people were in attendance.

On April 27, two separate plays were performed in Maralik and Artik. Over 120 children with their parents heard a message from the Bible."Why do you seek the living one among the dead." (Luke 24:5)



Easter Celebrations in Maralik, Armenia.



Easter Celebrations in Artik, Armenia.



Easter Program in Artashat, Armenia.



Vanadzor

"I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11:26)

On April 20, over 300 people participated in the resurrection services held at the Armenian Evangelical Church in Vanadzor. After the worship service, the congregation was invited to a dinner celebrating the promise Jesus gave for eternal life. In addition to the worship services, several activities were planned for children, teenagers and adults who in turn visited different homes and centers to share the good news of resurrection.



Easter Service in Vanadzor, Armenia.



Easter Program in Stepanakert, Karabagh.

Editor's Note: The AMAA thanks all those who participated in these Easter activities and brought the message of salvation to all who attended.

He is Risen indeed!

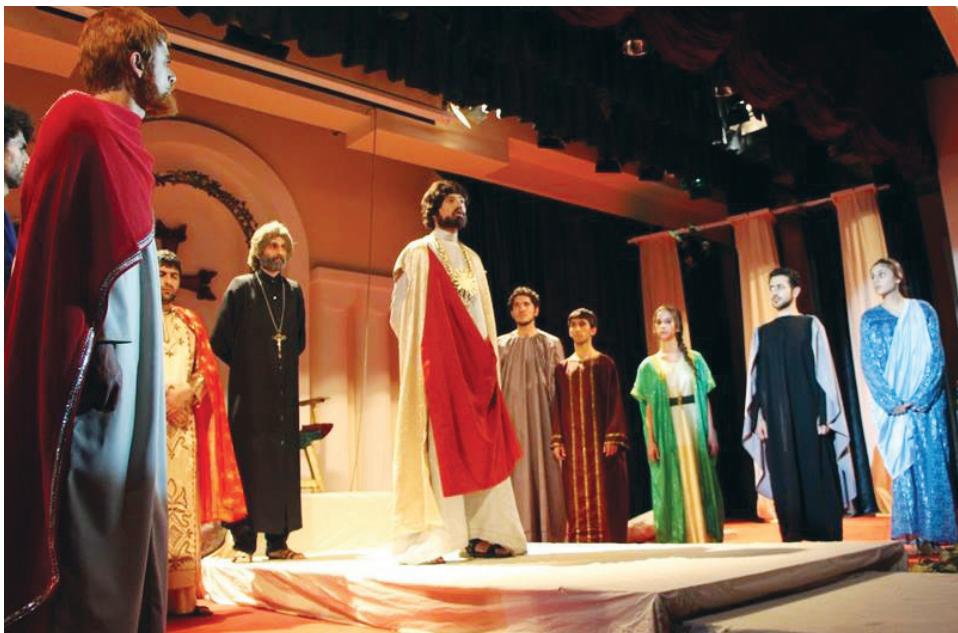
Stepanakert / Karabagh

The Armenian Evangelical Church in Stepanakert organized several Easter programs which were presented in Stepanakert and in several villages in Karabagh. The message of resurrection was intertwined with messages and praises taken from Psalm 34, 100, 105, 148. "O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together."

Over 400 people praised God with psalms and songs. Thus, the pastors, the youth leaders and the Christian education workers all participated in being harbingers of the good news. When an altar call was made, many young and old came forward.

Yerevan

The "Hayasa" Theatrical Group of the AMAA-Armenia, under the leadership of Noune Abrahamyan, presented a play with the title "The Second Crucifix of Jesus." Over 700 people attended this well received drama about the resurrection of Christ. The First Lady of Armenia Mrs. Rita Sargsyan was present at this event. Mrs. Sargsyan participated in the fellowship hour after the performance and addressed the guests.



Hayasa Theatrical Group of Yerevan, Armenia, presenting "The Second Crucifix of Jesus."

Syrian Armenian Refugees Attend Special Program in Yerevan, Armenia

On May 6, a special program was held at the Armenian Missionary Association of America Center in Yerevan, Armenia for Syrian Armenians who took refuge in Armenia during the recent uprising.

These Armenians were encouraged to remain hopeful and participated in a discussion on how the AMAA and the Evangelical Church of Armenia could help them. Rev. Haroutune Selimian, President of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria, gave a very encouraging message to those present. Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, Interim Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA, offered a prayer for Rev. Selimian, for Syria and for the Syrian Armenians who have endured great suffering and have been displaced during this time.

Following the program, guests were invited to attend a fellowship and dinner. □



Syrian Armenian Refugees attending the special program held at the AMAA Center in Yerevan, Armenia.



Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian offering a prayer for Rev. Haroutune Selimian.

→ Pastors' Seminar Held In Arzni, Armenia

As part of the Armenian Missionary Association of America's continuing education program for pastors in Armenia, Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, Interim Director/CEO of the AMAA, has planned a series of seminars for the pastors.

The latest seminar was held May 7-10 in Arzni, Armenia where 32 pastors from all over Armenia and Karabagh attended.

Rev. Dr. Avedis Boynerian, Pastor of the Armenian Memorial Church in Watertown, MA, taught New Testament Introduction/Theology and focused on the Gospel of Luke. There were four sessions each day. The seminar was well received by the pastors and many questions were answered following each lecture.

"The AMAA would like to thank Rev. Boynerian and his family and Church for making it possible for him to travel to Armenia and to teach this important class," said Rev. Melkonian. "The pastors truly appreciated the concentrated class and felt tremendously blessed for being able to attend."



Rev. Dr. Avedis Boynerian



Armenian Evangelical Church of New York Presents Tigran Martikyan in Concert to Benefit Avedisian School

On Sunday May 18, 2014, the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York hosted Jazz Pianist Tigran Martikyan, as part of a series of concerts to benefit AMAA's Avedisian School in Yerevan, Armenia. "The purpose of this 2014 concert series" said Rev. Haig Kherlopian, Pastor of the Church, "is to bring awareness to the arts in the community, while benefitting charity organizations."

Located in the Bangladesh area of Yerevan, the Avedisian

School is set to provide quality education for students in Kindergarten through the 12th grade. The School will be the first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)-certified building in all of Armenia and will provide free tuition education for its students.

Tigran Martikyan treated concertgoers to a variety of pieces, from original works such as "Cuty Muty" and "TM Blues" to jazz standards by Gershwin. Martikyan also performed Armenian songs by Edgar Hovhanessian and Arno Babadjanian, as well



Pianist Tigran Martikyan

as folk repertory from the collections of Gomidas. All pieces were originally arranged, and showed a dynamic and virtuosic mastery of technique, fresh originality. In his performance, Martikyan seamlessly fused his heritage and the eclectic sounds and strains of contemporary jazz.

Martikyan received his formal musical education was at the Tigran Chukhajian Music School in Yerevan, Armenia, his hometown. He continued

his studies at the University of Southern California and later on at the Manhattan School of Music. His music has won awards and has been praised as "intellectual" by jazz legend Chick Corea. Now living in Los Angeles, Martikyan juggles his time composing, providing private lessons to professionals and recreational beginners, and performing concerts in the U.S. and abroad.

The Armenian Evangelical Church of New York will host another benefit concert for the Avedisian School on Wednesday, June 11, 2014, featuring gifted singer and pianist Areni Agbabian.□



Central High School Alumni Association

Annual Banquet

Graduates of the 92-year-old Armenian Evangelical Central High School (CHS) of Ashrefieh, Beirut, Lebanon, express their feelings of gratitude to their school at least once a year, when they receive an invitation from the Central High School Alumni Association in the United States to attend their Annual Banquet.

150 guests including graduates, their families and CHS friends gathered on March 15 at the Phoenicia Restaurant in Glendale, California to see each other, relive memories and stand in strong support for their beloved school.

Opening remarks were delivered by Committee member Taline Parseghian. The National Anthems of the United States of America and the Republic of Armenia were sung by CHS alumnus and well-known tenor Raffi Kerbabian, accompanied by Harout Torossian on the piano. Rev. Calvin Sagherian gave the invocation. Master of Ceremonies Raffi Kerbabian invited Committee Chairman Varouj Charkhedian to speak on CHS's past, and the successes and challenges of the present.

Words of tribute for the late Sona Nashian and her tireless labor of love as teacher and principal of her beloved CHS, which she considered to be her first home, were given by Palig Karamian. Guests were then treated to an inspiring musical selection of Armenian and non-Armenian classic songs by Raffi Kerbabian and Arpy Aintablian. Violinist Meroujan Markarian created a pleasant musical atmosphere.

The Alumni Executive Committee's decision to honor a dedicated teacher each year has become a beautiful tradition. This year's "Teacher of the Year" was



The Executive Committee of the Central High School Alumni Association of the Greater Los Angeles area. Standing L to R: Ara Kalfayan, Varouj Charkhedian, Hratch Mouradian, Raffi Kerbabian, Lucy Miridjian, Taline Parseghian, Annie Tashjian. Sitting L to R: Sonia Aintablian, Sara Antikadjian and Palig Karamian.

Garo Kazandjian, sports instructor and referee, known as "estez", whose biography and works were presented by Arpy Hamparian-Jierian. Chairperson Varouj Charkhedian presented Mr. Kazandjian with a plaque of appreciation.

School Principal Maral Deyirmendjian had sent a video on the current activities, internal and external successes, completed facility improvements and immediate needs and challenges of the School.

The plaque for "Alumni of the Year" was given to Apkar Mirakian from Canada whose biography was presented by Sara Antikadjian.

At the conclusion of the banquet, those present enjoyed a medley of Armenian and non-Armenian songs by Raffi Khardalian. *Editor's Note: The Board of Directors of the AMAA congratulates the Alumni for this successful event, promises to continue supporting the mission of the School, and prays for greater success in the future.*



Shamlian Tatigian Armenian Evangelical School

Celebrating 80 Years of Service to God and the Armenian People

We thank God for His leadership and guidance, we thank him for giving us the opportunity to open an Armenian Evangelical school in Bourdj Hammoud, Nor Marash, to provide Armenian and Christ centered education to our precious children. We thank God for giving us visionaries who, under almost impossible conditions, with great faith and perseverance, opened schools to educate children. We thank visionaries such as Rev. Garabed Hassessian, one of the founders of the School. We thank the Shamlian and Tatigian families for their generous donations that helped in the construction of a new school. We thank the Philibosian Foundation for their continued financial support. We thank the AMAA members for their leadership and continued financial support.

On March 29, 2014, the Alumni Association of the Shamlian Tatigian school held a banquet at the Phoenicia Restaurant in Glendale, CA, to celebrate 80 years of service to the Armenian children in Lebanon and to raise the funds desperately needed to meet the financial obligations to keep the School in operation.

Kohar Jarlekian, Chair of the Banquet Committee, made the opening remarks and introduced the Master of Ceremonies Danny Geuzubeuyukian, who, after welcoming the guests, invited Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian to offer the invocation. Zaven Hanessian, Chair of the Alumni Association, introduced Ms. Vartoug Balekjian, the School Principal and Suren Vardanyan, Representative of the Consul General of Armenia. He also introduced the School's former Principals Aram Boulghourjian and his wife Anahis, and Yessai Yessayan.

During the banquet, Ms. Balekjian presented a video about the School's



The Board of the Alumni Association of Shamlian Tatigian School pictured with Principal Vartoug Balekjian (second from right).

achievements and challenges, and encouraged all to continue supporting the school. Levon Filian, the West Coast Executive Director of AMAA, brought greetings from the AMAA, thanked them for their ministry, and challenged everyone to continue their support for the mission of the School. The Alumni honored one of their graduates Dr. Annie Torossian Baghdayan, as the "Teacher and Alumnus of the Year." Dr. Annie, who currently teaches in a university in Oklahoma, was deeply grateful for the education she had received at Shamlian Tatigian, and shared the good memories she cherishes from her school days.

The Keynote Speaker was Michael Youseffian. He emphasized the importance of raising children in a safe Christ centered environment with the strong family and cultural values. He said "we must keep our faith and our language, by following in

the footsteps of our forefathers who were willing to give their lives in the Genocide for these values."

The gala event was concluded with a Benediction offered by Rev. Dr. John Khanjian.

On this special occasion, celebrating the 80th anniversary of the School, the Alumni has prepared a DONATION BOARD. We are all challenged to become a participant by donating \$1000 to the School. The donors names will be displayed at the School. Tax exempt donation may be made payable to Shamlian Tatigian School and mailed to Kohar Jarlekian at 2592 Calle Villada Circle, Duarte, CA 91010.

***Editor's Note:** The Board of Directors of the AMAA congratulates the Alumni for this successful event, promises to continue supporting the mission of the School, and prays for greater success in the future.*

Merdinian School Annual Banquet

On March 9, 2014, the Charlotte and Elizabeth Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School held its 32nd Annual Banquet. The banquet started with an invocation offered by Rev. Haig Darakjian. Indeed, it was a time to praise God and congratulate all those who had participated in the achievements of the School. Linda Qasabian and Pierre Movsesian were the Masters of Ceremonies. They welcomed the guests, thanked the Banquet Committee members, chaired by Dee Chorlian, for their hard work, and emphasized the importance of team work, Armenian heritage and Christian principles. All of these are essential parts of the School's ministry and success. The guests were treated to a selection of Armenian and International music presented by Mr X, Arthur Haggopian.

The Board Chairman Dr. Vahe Nalbandian and the School Principal Lina Arslanian shared the School's achievements with the supporters and guests of the School.

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges, WASC, during their mid-term visit, applauded the high educational standards of the School, and commended the school for the collaborative efforts between board, faculty, staff, and parents, in their joint efforts to help the students reach their maximum potential. The School also received grants to upgrade the campus facilities and integrate technology into classroom instruction.

On this festive occasion, the School recognized Azniv Ghazanian for her leadership in the Parent Teacher Organization. They honored Juliette Abdulian, the Board Vice President, for her role in obtaining grants for the School. The School also honored Board member Koko Balian for his dedicated services for the School over the last 30 years, as a Board member and as Chair of various committees. The students honored Mary Meguerditchian, an Alumnus of



L to R: Principal Lina Arslanian, Koko Balian, Mary Meguerditchian, Azniv Ghazanian, Juliette Abdulian and Dr. Vahe Nalbandian

Merdinian, as the 'Teacher of the Year.' They thanked her for being a caring, loving, kind, sweet, cheerful, and wonderful person.

Rev. Mrgrdich Melkonian brought greetings from the AMAA, and Rev. Vahan Tootikian offered the Benediction.

For more information about the Merdinian School, please contact Lina Arslanian, the School Principal at 818.907.8149, or visit their website at www.merdinianschool.com.

Editor's Note: The AMAA congratulates the School for their outstanding achievements over the years and wishes them greater success in the coming years.

Armenian Churches of Worcester, MA Hold an Event To Benefit Armenian Charities

The Armenian Churches of Worcester County in Massachusetts, which consists of the Armenian Church of Our Saviour in Worcester, the Armenian Church of the Martyrs in Worcester, the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church in Worcester and Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church in Whitinsville, held their third annual benefit dance on May 10. Over 200 people attended the dance which donates 100% of the money raised to the designated charities.

The benefitting charities this year were the Armenian Missionary Association of America's Syrian Relief Fund, the Akhourian Mother and Child Clinic and the Mrgashen Village School. Each received \$1,552.

Over the past three years, approximately \$20,000 has been raised and distributed to seven charitable organizations that serve our brothers and sisters in Armenia. Some of the other charities that have benefitted from this dance have included the AMAA's



Armenian Children's Milk Fund, Habitat for Humanity Armenia and The Voice of the Armenian Church for its summer camp program in Armenia.

Editor's Note: We applaud and appreciate all the efforts made to help our brothers and sisters in Syria.



Harry Nadjarian Honored

Each year, the Lebanese American Foundation (LAF) Board of Directors recognizes a Lebanese American person, who is worthy to receive the Dr. Ray R. Irani "Pride of Heritage Award" for their outstanding achievements in the business world, for the love and the commitment they demonstrate for their family, and for their philanthropic contributions to education and culture.

It gives us great pleasure to share with you that the 2014 recipient of this award was Mr. Harry Nadjarian. On Sunday, April 5, at a banquet held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, over 700 guests, dignitaries and friends participated in this festive occasion. Kerry Kasem, daughter of legendary radio personality Casey Kasem, was the Master of Ceremonies. The entertainment program was enriched by musical selections performed by New Wayne Foster Dance Orchestra and the Grammy Award winning superstar Natalie Cole, who entertained the audience with a selection of great oldies and Jazz music.

Honorable Judge Dick Tavrizian and Dr. Ray Irani invited Mr. Harry Nadjarian to the podium to present him with the "Pride of Heritage Award." Mr. Nadjarian thanked the committee for honoring him with this special award. He also thanked God for His blessings, highest among which was a loving and caring family. Present at the event to honor Mr. Nadjarian were representatives from several Lebanese, Armenian and American organizations. Among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Gary and Arsine Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Joe and Joyce Stein, Mr. and Mrs. Jack and Lori Muncherian, Dr. and Dr. Nazareth and Ani Darakjian, Mr. and Dr. Levon and Liliana Filian, representatives and friends from the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), the Philibossian Foundation and Haigazian University.

Harry Nadjarian was born in Lebanon to proud Marashtsi parents. He attended Armenian Evangelical schools in Lebanon. He entered the business world as a marketing director for a successful travel agency in Beirut. At the age of 23 he emigrated to the United States and immediately started to pursue the American Dream, a land of opportunity for those who have the will power to work hard and use their skills as an entrepreneur. He soon founded and built the Industrial Motor Power Corporation, one of the largest privately owned industrial power equipment companies in the world.

Mr. Nadjarian is married to Cheryl, and they are blessed with two children, Alexandra and Nicholas, married to Marissa, and a grandchild Simone.

The Nadjarians have been supporters and generous donors to American, Armenian and Lebanese educational institutions, relief funds, athletic organizations, the Red Cross and Boy Scouts of America. They have also supported the Armenian schools and churches in Armenia and Lebanon. Mr. Harry Nadjarian serves on the Haigazian University Board of Trustees.

Editor's Note: The AMAA Board of Directors congratulates the Nadjarians for this great award and wishes them great success as they continue to serve their people around the world.



Harry Nadjarian (left) receives his award.

Camp AREV Annual Banquet

The 37th Camp AREV Annual Banquet took place on February 23. It was attended by over 325 guests, consisting of campers, camp counselors, pastors, youth leaders, parents and supporters.

George Hagopian was the energetic and humorous Master of Ceremonies.

The Christian Outreach for Armenians Worship Team lifted up the spirit of all attendees by singing songs sung at Camp AREV from the 1970s to the present. The guests, touched by the spiritual messages in each song, stood up to sing "How Great is Our God."

The Board of Directors thanked Simon Marashlian for his participation in the ministry of the Camp as its former Treasurer and Chairman of the Board. Jennifer Minasian was recognized for the spirit of service she demonstrated, going beyond the call of duty to clean windows, mop floors and make sure the facilities are kept in top shape. A video presentation by Jonathan Khoshafian dealt with the current technological and spiritual trends among young people.

Rev. Daniel Albarian was the Keynote Speaker. He reflected on the Mission Statement of Camp AREV, reminding all that the main



goal of the Camp was to bring campers to Christ and to help them grow in their Christian walk. He spoke about God's unchanging love for all and challenged all to be devoted to Him.

For more information about Camp AREV, please call the Camp Director Rev. Razmig Minassian at 818-507-0922 or visit their website at www.camparev.org.

Editor's Note: The AMAA congratulates the leadership of Camp AREV for this successful event, thanks them for their ministry and promises to continue supporting this ministry with prayers and providing financial support.

Rev. Melkonian Visits Churches on East Coast and Canada

Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, Interim Executive Director/CEO of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), spent much of the spring in meetings, travel abroad related to AMAA work and visiting churches in Canada and on the East Coast.

On March 21, he attended a concert organized by the local Armenian organizations of Quebec including the Armenian Missionary Association of Canada (AMAC) which featured soloist Hrair Boudjikanian from Argentina. The concert raised funds for Kessab, Syria. On March 22, he attended the AMAC meeting in Montreal to review their past activities and their continuing efforts to raise funds for the AMAA's mission and service ministries around the world.

Rev. Melkonian also attended AMAA Sundays on March 23 at the Armenian Evangelical Church, Laval, QC, March 30 at the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church in Havertown, PA, April 6 at the Armenian Memorial Church in Watertown, MA and April 13 at the Armenian Evangelical Church in Cranston, RI. Rev. Melkonian preached during the services and gave updates about the AMAA's mission and the Avedisian School during the luncheons. □



AMAA Sunday Luncheon at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal, Canada.



L to R: Soloist Hrair Boudjikanian, Pastor Mardiros Eylenjian, Rev. Dr. Manuel Jinbashian, Rev. Avedis Zarifian, Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, Mihran Jizmejian and Rev. Jerair Bizzikian at the March 21 Concert.



Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian (middle) with members of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Cranston, RI - Gloria Messerlian, Nancy Tarakjian, Robert Messerlian and Carlos Tarakjian.



Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian with some of the members of AMAC.



AMAA Sunday Luncheon at the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Havertown, PA.



A representative from the Church of the Good Shepherd of Watertown, presenting a check for Syria Relief.



Sunday School students of the Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, MA performing during the AMAA Sunday Luncheon.



Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian preaching at the Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, MA during AMAA Sunday Worship Service.

Rev. Jeremy Tovmassian Ordained and Installed as Pastor in Chicago



Pastors participating in the Ordination Service of Rev. Jeremy Tovmassian L to R: Rev. Joseph Matossian, Rev. Ron Tovmassian, Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, Rev. Shant Barsoumian, Rev. Dr. Ara Jizmejian and Rev. Fr. Zareh Sahagian.

On Sunday, May 18, 2014, Jeremy Barkev Tovmassian was ordained and installed as Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Chicago. Attendance included members of the church family, friends from the broader Chicago Armenian community and church clergy from a variety of sister churches. A lunch was held prior to the service in honor of Rev. Jeremy Tovmassian and a reception followed the service of ordination and installation.

Jeremy Tovmassian is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Ron and Renee Tovmassian and the grandson of AMAA's former Executive Secretary, the late Rev. Edward Tovmassian. Jeremy is a graduate of the Talbot School of Theology where he received a Master of Divinity with an emphasis in General Pastoral Care. He also holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Corporate Law.

The service of ordination and installation was presided over by Rev. Joseph Matossian, Acting Minister to the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America. Also participating were Rev. Ron Tovmassian, Senior Pastor of the United Armenian Congregational Church, Los Angeles, CA; Rev. Shant Barsoumian, Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Detroit; Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, Interim Executive Director/CEO of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA); and Rev. Dr. Ara Jizmejian, Eastern Region Minister to Youth.

Also in attendance were the Archpriest Rev. Fr. Zareh Sahagian of the All Saints Armenian Apostolic Church, Glenview, IL; and Dr. Gilbert Bilezikian Former Professor of Theology at Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL.

Editor's Note: We congratulate Rev. Tovmassian on his ordination and pray for God's continued blessings on him and his ministry in the Greater Chicago Area.

West Coast Visitations and Meetings

We thank Dr. Vartkes and Mary Najarian who gracefully arranged a meeting at their Oceanside home with the Kalemkiarians and Kassarjians to meet with Levon Filian, AMAA's West Coast Executive Director and his wife Liliana. We thank all of them for their continued support for the AMAA.

We wish Kay Zulalian a speedy recovery. We thank her for being a supporter of the AMAA for many years.

We thank the Shamassians for their continued support for the AMAA. □



L to R: Paul and Rosemary Kalemkiarian, Mary and Dr. Vartkes Najarian and Levon Filian



Levon Filian with Kay Zulalian.



L to R: Khoren and Knar Kassarjian, Levon Filian, Mary and Dr. Vartkes Najarian



L to R: Zohrab Shamassian, Levon Filian and Michael Shamassian



Cilicia Church Mother's Day Luncheon

Tuesday, May 13, 2014, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church held their annual Mother's Day Luncheon. It was a tremendous success. The Master of Ceremonies was Angele Bedirian. After introducing guests, she invited Rev. Kevork Terian to offer the invocation. The scripture reading was presented by Sirvart Ketenjian. Mariam Pachanian enhanced the event with a beautiful musical number and Anahit Habeshian recited several heartfelt poems. The guest speaker, Sossy Asdourian, delivered a wonderful message regarding "The Wife of Noble Character" from the book of Proverbs. Mrs. Margaret Aroyan,



L to R: Sirvart Hintlian, Levon Filian and Sirvart Ketenjian



Front Row, L to R: Anahis Boulghourjian, Sirvart Ketenjian, Rev. Kevork Terian, Angele Bedirian, Nazelie Parikian, Mariam Pachanian, Middle Row, L to R: Levon Filian, Diana Tookmanian, Nevart Arabyan. Back Row, L to R: Liliana Filian, Margaret Aroyan, Sossy Asdourian, Lydia Ishkhanian, Ani Abadjian, and Arouss Albarian

a longtime member of the Church, was honored as the "Mother of the Year." Levon Filian congratulated the Church for their successful event, thanked its committee for their hard work, conveyed greetings from the AMAA Board and challenged each and every one to support the many ministries of the AMAA in 24 countries.

The luncheon was sponsored by Anahis Derian Boulghourjian and Ani Abadjian. The active Committee members of the Ladies Auxiliary are: Angele Bedirian, Chairperson; Lydia Ishkhanian, Vice Chairperson; Nazelie Parikian, Treasurer; Ani Abadjian, Secretary; Sirvart Ketenjian, Advisor; Anahis Derian Boulghourjian, Advisor. □



West Coast Executive Director Speaks at ACOP Easter Dinner

Levon Filian, AMAA West Coast Executive Director, was the Keynote Speaker at an Easter Dinner, sponsored by the Armenian Christian Outreach of PazNaz (ACOP). The event was held on April 13, 2014, in Pasadena, CA.

The Armenian Christian Outreach of PazNaz is a group of followers of Jesus who are committed to love as Christ loved. They have a number of ministries and activities as well as worship services and Bible study groups. □

Pictured L to R: Levon Filian, Vahram Tashjian, Executive Pastor of Armenian Christian Outreach of PazNaz (ACOP), Pete Mehrabian, Chairman of the Board of ACOP, Judy Anderson and Scott Anderson, Executive Pastor of Pasadena First Church of the Nazarene.

BOOKS

ACADEMIES FOR ANATOLIA, by Frank A. Stone, *A Study of the Rationale, Program, and Impact of the Educational Institutions Sponsored by the American Board in Turkey, 1830-2005*, 400 pp, #325 \$39.99

ARMENIAN CHRISTIANITY - THE FAITH OF A NATION, by Rev. Dr. Aharon Sapsezian, *A historical look at Christianity in the Armenian culture*. pb #252.....\$10.00

ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL MOVEMENT - HISTORY, FAITH AND MISSION, by Rev. Barkev N. Darakjian, *The book consists of two parts: Armenian Evangelical Movement and General Articles*, 249 pp, pb #341\$15.00

ARMENIAN NEEDLELACE & EMBROIDERY, by Alice Odian Kasparian, *A photographic collection of more than 100 priceless specimens (a third in color)*, 127 pp, hc #120\$15.00

THE ARMENIANS OF LEBANON: FROM PAST PRINCESSES AND REFUGEES TO PRESENT-DAY COMMUNITY, Edited by Aida Boudjikanian and Published by Haigazian University and the Armenian Heritage Press, 506 pp, hc #338\$35.00

ARMENIANS RESOLVE TO SURVIVE TURKISH GENOCIDE, by Douglas Y. Haig, 258 pp, pb #273\$15.00

THE BENEFITS & CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH TO THE ARMENIAN NATION, by Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, hc #295.....\$20.00

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ARMENIA, by Rev. Sarkis Papajian, 134 pp, pb #140.....\$5.00

THE BURNING TIGRIS, by Peter Balakian, 475 pp, hc #30615.00

CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES, by Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, 158 pp, hc #339.....\$20.00

CLAWS OF THE CRAB: GEORGIA AND ARMENIA IN CRISIS, by Stephen Brook, 354 pp, hc #237\$25.00

DAYS OF TRAGEDY IN ARMENIA, by Henry H. Riggs. *An American Missionary born in Ottoman Empire, gives a first hand account of events in Kharbert during the Genocide*, 220 pp, pb #267\$25.00

ESCAPE TO MUSA DAGH OR THE BANISHMENT OF ZEITOUN AND SUEDIA'S REVOLT, by Rev. D. Antreasian, 74 pp, pb #259\$7.00

THE GENOCIDE AGAINST THE ARMENIANS 1915-1923 AND THE RELEVANCE OF THE 1948 GENOCIDE CONVENTION, by Alfred de Zayas, J.D., Dr. Phil., 106 pp, pb #345.....\$10.00

THE HERITAGE OF ARMENIAN LITERATURE, VOLUME I, *From the Oral Tradition to the Golden Age* 388 pp, hc #288\$35.00

IN OTHER WORDS, by Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji, *A variety of selected sermons*. #310.....\$20.00

NEITHER TO LAUGH NOR TO WEEP, by Rev. Abraham Hartunian. *A Memoir of the Armenian Genocide* #56c\$10.00

SHOWERS OF GRACE, by Arousiag Tovmassian Missirlian. *A Memoir of God's Abundant Blessing Throughout a Lifetime of Christian Service*. #5346\$20.00

SURVIVAL OR REVIVAL, by Carnegie S. Calian, *Ten keys to church vitality*. #278.....\$17.00

THE THIRSTY ENEMY - A MEMOIR, by Dr. John Markarian, *It tells about the beginning steps in the creation of Haigazian College (now University), an institution of higher learning, and finds its theme in seven years of war, giving a drink to the thirsty Enemy*. 438 pp, hc #335\$17.00

THE TREATMENT OF ARMENIANS IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE 1915-1916, By Viscount Bryce. *Documents presented to Viscount Grey of*

Falldodon Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. #14f\$23.00

TORN BETWEEN TWO LANDS, by Robert Mirak, *Armenians in America 1890 to World War I. A comprehensive study of the Armenian community in America*. #121\$25.00

UNDERSTANDING THE OLD TESTAMENT, by Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, hc #271\$35.00

Views on Good News, by Asien Surmeian, *365 inspiring daily devotionals for Christian living*. #309\$20.00

WE WALKED, THEN WE RAN, by Alice Muggerditchian Shipley. *The courageous story of nine-year old girl as she and her family fled Armenia during the Turkish atrocities* pb #125\$8.00

160TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH (in English and Armenian), by Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, *Articles and lectures by the author, lectures by Armenian Evangelical ministers and lay leaders presented at the All Armenian Evangelical Conference held in Yerevan, Armenia, Sept. 15-17, 2006 and a brief report on the 160th Anniversary celebrations held in Armenia*. #327\$30.00

ARMENIAN BIBLES - ԱՍՏՈՒԱԾԱԾՈՒՅՆՉԵՐ

ARMENIAN REFERENCE BIBLE - hc black - large - # 13x1\$25.00
 pb white - large # 13x2\$20.00
 Leather bound black - large # 13x3\$30.00
 Leather bound white - large # 13x4\$30.00

SERPAZAN BADMUTIUN (Children's Bible) # 155b.....\$10.00

ARMENIAN NEW TESTAMENT ON TAPES (The Four Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) # 195,.....\$20.00

ARMENIAN BIBLE ON CD, Multilingual - Armenian, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish & Portuguese & Latin (text, not audio #333\$65.00

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Manga Messiah - Մանկա Մեսիա - Armenian Children's Graphic Bible. Manga Messiah is an account of the life of Jesus. #348\$10.00

CDs, TAPES & DVDs

A VIOLA RECITAL - (CD) Brahms, Schubert, Gomidas, Bagdasarian, Milhaud, Reger - by Gor Hovhannisyan, Viola and Gary Kirkpatrick, Piano. Recorded live, #301\$15.00

AMAA'S "YOUNG VIRTUOSOS" OF ARMENIA - (CD) Musical Ensemble of 6 talented children - ages 9-14 (violins, cello, flute & piano) - Armenian and international classical music, #293\$10.00

BIBLICAL PARALLELS - (DVD) Paintings by Lucy Janjigian - *The paintings are the evolutionary results of many years of Bible Study - Accompanied by music and narration - 32 paintings*, #312.....\$25.00

JOURNEY TO RESURRECTION - (DVD & Video) Paintings by Lucy Janjigian - *Depicting images of Passion Week scenes from Holy Thursday to the Resurrection, with scenes from Jerusalem's land marks with narration and musical accompaniment - 33 paintings*, DVD #313a, Video #313b\$25.00

MEMORIES OF MARASH - (DVD) by Roger K. Hagopian - the Legacy of a lost Armenian community - 74 min. documentary - #327 ..\$25.00



NOR YERK - BIDI BADMEM (CD in Armenian), ՆՈՐ ԵՐՔ (Սի Տի) Պիտի Պատմեմ, #208j \$10.00

"SERPAZAN YERKER" Sacred Music Chorale, (cassette in Armenian), conducted by Dr. John Merjanian, Սրբազն Երգեր - Խմբավար Տօրք. Ճամ Մերմանեան (Ճայներիզ) #193 \$10.00

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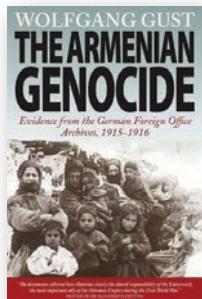
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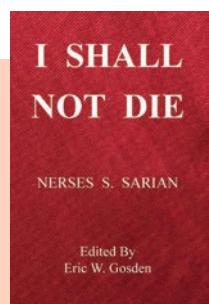
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ԸՆԴԱԿԻ ԵՒ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

«Ես եւ իմ տունս Եհովան պիտի պաշտենք»: Յեսու 24. 15

Վեր. Յովհաննէս Մ. Սարմավեան

Թերեւա առաջին ակնարկով, ոմանց համար այս Յիւրը՝ «Ընտանիք եւ Եկեղեցի», ֆիչ մը անյարիք նկատուի, մանաւանդ երբ անոնք ընկերային տեսանկիւնէն դիտուելու ըլլան: Սակայն, երբ դիտենք պատմութեան ընդէշէն եւ Աստուածաշունչի էջերը դարձնենք, պիտի տեսնենքք քէ անցեալին ընտանիք եւ նկեղեցի իրարու շատ մօտ եւ զիրար ամբողջացնող հաստատութիւններ եղած են: Ընտանիքը եղած է նկեղեցիի մանրանկարը:

Գործք Առաքելոցի մէջ երբ կը կարդանք առաջին նկեղեցիի ծնունդին մասին, կ'իմանանք որ երկար ժամանակ նկեղեցիին պաշտամունքներն ու ազօքքները կը կատարուեին տուներու՝ ընտանիքներու մէջ: Հաւատացեալներ, ընտանեկան պարագաներով միասին, իրենց տուները նկեղեցիի կը վերածէին, երբ մէկտեղ գալու կարիքը ստեղծուեր: Պաշտօնական նկեղեցին իր կազմակերպչական եւ վարչական ծնունդը առած է ընտանիքնեն: Առաջին դարու հաւատացեալները շատ մօտէն կը հետեւէին նոր Կոտակարանի ցուցմունքներուն: Յիսուս ըստ. «Քանզի ուր երկու կամ երեք հոգի հաւաքուած ըլլան իմ անունովս, հոն եմ ես՝ անոնց մէջ» (Մատթ. 18. 20):

Յանախ, երբ «նկեղեցի» կ'ըսենք, մարդոց միտքին մէջ անմիջապէս կը պատկերացուի իրայատուկ ոնով կառուցուածք մը, իր գմբեթներով և խաչերով: Սակայն, այդ արտաքին նարտարապետական կառուցուածքը չէ նկեղեցին: Բուն նկեղեցին կը սահմանուի Քրիստոսի վրայ նոյն հաւատքը ունեցող հաւատացեալներու համախմբումով, ուր Քրիստոս ինք ներկայ է՝ Սուրբ Հոգին միջոցով: Վայրէն աւելի կարեւորն ու հիմնականը այն է, որ ո՞վ կը համախմբէ մարդիկը իրարու և ինչո՞ւ:

Ասոր համար երբեմն նկեղեցիներ կը դադրին իրաւ նկեղեցի ըլլալէ, երբ այնտեղ համախմբուող մարդիկ Քրիստոսի վրայ իսկապէս հաւատք չունին: Խակ անդին, պատիկ խրնիք մը, ուր իրաւ հաւատացեալներ կը հաւաքուին, կ'աղօթնեն եւ զԱստուած կը փառաւորնեն, այնտեղ շատ աւելի իրաւ նկեղեցի մը կ'ըլլայ, քան մայր տանար նկատուած նկեղեցի մը, ուր հաւատացեալներ չկան:

Ա. Դարուն, Պօղոս Առաքեալի կատարած աւետարան-չական ճամբորդութեանց ընթացքին, երբ մարդիկ եւ ընտանիքներ դարձի գալու Քրիստոսը ընդունէին իրեւ իրենց Տէրն ու Փրկիչը, Առաքեալը անմիջապէս նկեղեցի կը հիմնէր այնտեղ՝ տունի մը մէջ: Անոր համար,

իր կարգ մը նամակներուն մէջ, ակնարկութիւն կը տեսնենք տուներու մէջ եղած նկեղեցիներուն:

Պատահեցաւ որ աւետարան-չական գործով, մէկ քանի անգամ հայրենիք այցելեմ: Երեւանէն դուրս, տասնեակ մը եւ աւելի նկեղեցիներու մէջ քարոզելու առիքը ունեցայ: Անոնք նոր կազմուած են, եւ տակաւին մասնաւոր նկեղեցաշէնք չունին, բայց նկեղեցի են, եւ նկեղեցի ունին:

Կը յիշեմ, Գեսապի Պաղճաղազ փոքր գիւղին մէջ մենք նկեղեցի չունեինք: Մօտակայ է ելիզօլուգ գիւղին հովիւր կիրակի երեկոյեան կու գար պաշտամունքի: Ամառը՝ մեր բակին մէջ կը հաւաքուէինք, իսկ ձմեռը մեր տան մէջ: Խմ տարիքի փոքր մանչեր եւ աղջիկներ, առաջին շարքի վրայ ծալապատիկ կը նստէինք: Այդ նուիրեալ հովիւներէն կը յիշեմ վեր. Արամ Հատիտեանը, վեր. Ասատուր Պերպէրեանը, վեր. Եղուարդ Թովմասեանը, վեր. Մարտիրոս Մարկանեանը եւ շատ մը ուրիշ այցելու հովիւներ: Այսօր կ'անդրադառնամք քէ որքան ազդեցիկ եղած են այդ բացօրեայ պաշտամունքները հոգեւոր կեանքս կազմաւորելու: Նոր Կոտակարանին մէջ տուն եւ նկեղեցի գրեթէ որպէս հոմանիշներ գործածուած են: Հաւատացեալ ընտանիքներ փոքր նկեղեցիներ կը նկատուէին, իսկ նկեղեցին, Քրիստոսի մեծ ընտանիքը:

Ինչպէս նկեղեցին կը նկատուի սուրբ՝ ընտրուած հաւատացեալներու համախմբում մը, որուն գլուխը Քրիստոս ինքն է, նոյնպէս՝ ընտանիքը կանչուած է ըլլալու սրբագործուած Տէրունական հաստատութիւն մը: Անոր ակնարկելով, առաքեալը կ'ըսէ. «Ամուսնութիւնը բոլորովկին պատուական է ու անկողինը անարատ է» (Եբր. 13. 4): Հակառակ պարագային ընտանիքը կը դադրի Սուրբ Գրային սահմանուով ընտանիք կոչուելէ եւ կը դառնայ «հորեւլ» կամ «մորեւլ», ուր մարդիկ կը յանախնեն ուտել-խմելու եւ բնանալու համար: Ասոր համար, դժբախտարար, այսօր շատ է թիւր չակերտուած ընտանիքներու, ուր Աստուած գոյութիւն չունի, ակնածամք չկայ ամուսնական սրբազն ուխտին համդեպ եւ Քրիստոս իբրեւ տէր եւ առաջնորդ չի ճանչցուիր:

Իրեւ ընտանիքներ ո՞րքան կապուած ենք մեր նկեղեցիին: Ամէն կիրակի առաւօտ ընտանիօտ նկեղեցի յանախնելը ո՞րքան կարեւոր եւ առաջնակերպ պարտականութիւն կը նկատենք մեր ըտանիքին համար: Ո՞րքան յանախ Աստուածաշունչի ընթերցանութեամք





եւ ընտանեկան աղօթքներով ու փառարանութեամբ մեր ընտանիքները փոքր եկեղեցին մը կը վերածենք: Ասոնք շատ կարենոր հարցումներ եւ հարցեր են, որոնց հանդէպ մեր դրական կեցուածքն ու վերաբերմունքը մեծապէս պիտի օգնէ յառաջիկայ սերունդներուն քարոյական, հոգեւոր եւ ընկերային առողջ եւ օրինարեր զարգացումն:

Իրեւ ընտանիք, եկեղեցին հեռու մնալով, մեր զաւակները եկեղեցական մթնոլորտէն եւ դաստիարակութենեն զրկելով, ընտանեկան մեծագոյն սխալը գործած կ'ըլլանք եւ մեծ վնասներ կը պատճառենք մեր զաւակներուն ապագային ու անոնց ընտանեկան կեանքին յաջողութեան եւ երջանկութեան:

Այսօր, դժբախտաբար մեծ է թիւր այն ծնողներուն, որոնք կամայ թէ ակամայ, գիտութեամբ եւ անգիտութեամբ, մեծ աւերներ կը գործեն եկեղեցին հանդէպ անտարբեր գտնուելով եւ անկէ հեռու մնալով: Իրեւ ծնողներ, մեր զաւակները սիրելը չի սահմանափակուիր զանոնք լաւ հացցնելով կամ ֆիզիքապէս մատակարարելով, որպէսզի առողջ եւ հանգիստ մեծնան: Նիւրական սնունդի չափ եւ աւելի կարեւոր հիմնական կարիք է մեր մանուկներուն հոգեւոր սնունդ մատակարարելը, հաւասարակշռուած առողջութիւն մը ունենալու համար: Վաղը, երբ անոնք կեանքի պայքարին մէջ մտնեն, պէտք պիտի ունենան հաւատքի, վստահութեան, սիրոյ, յոյսի, քաջութեան եւ ապահովութեան: Ասոնք հոգեկան անփոխարինելի եւ խիստ կենսական կարիքներ են. հոգեւոր սնունդ, որ միայն իրաւ եւ իր կոչումին գիտակից եկեղեցին կրնայ հայրայրել իր կիրակնօրեայ դպրոցով եւ հոգեւոր մընուրտով:

Դարձեալ, շատ է թիւր այն ծնողներուն, որոնք բաւական մեծ քախնդրութեամբ եւ զոհողութեամբ կը փորձն ընտրել լաւագոյն առօրեայ դպրոցը իրենց զաւակներուն համար, բայց կը մոռնան որ անկէ առաջ իրենց զաւակները պէտք ունին եկեղեցի-դպրոց յանախելու:

Հովուական պաշտօնիս թերումով, երբեմն հարցուցած եմ կարգ մը երիտասարդ ընտանիքներու, որոնք երախաներ ունին, թէ ինչո՞ւ այնքան յանախ եկեղեցին կը բացակային, եւ մանաւանդ իրենց անմեն մանուկները կը զրկեն եկեղեցիի կիրակնօրեայ դպրոցէն: Անոնց պատասխանները եղած են անտեղի եւ անիմաստ պատրուակներ, թէ այնքան շատ զրադած են որ ժամանակ չեն գտներ եկեղեցի յանախնելու: Պէտք է համոզուիլ սակայն, որ եկեղեցին աւելրդ ժամանակ գտնելէ ետք յանախնելիք վայր մը չէ երբեք: Տէրունական օրուան ընթացքին, ամէն տեսակի գործերէ առաջ եւ վեր դասուելիք առաջնաերը պարտաւորութիւն մըն է եկեղեցի յանախնելը: Եւ այդ բոլորը ի ինդիք մեր եւ մեր զաւակներուն քարոյական ու հոգեւոր սնունդին եւ դաստիարակութեան:

Եկեղեցի յանախնելը ոչ միայն Տէրունական կոչ մըն է մեզի համար, ինչպէս առաքեալը կը պատուիրէ՝ «Մէկտեղ հաւառուիլը չքողուլ», այլ նաև՝ մեր պատմութենեն մեզի հասած պատգամ մը:

Որքան գեղեցիկ եւ ուրախալի երեւոյթ մըն է, Ամէն կիրակի առաւօտ, եկեղեցիի նստարաններէն մէկը գրաւուած տեսնել ընտանիքի մը կողմէ՝ հայր, մայր

եւ զաւակներ: Ատկէ աւելի մեծ օրինութիւն կարելի չէ երեւակայել ընտանիքի մը, եւ այնտեղ ապրող ու մեծցող զաւակներուն համար:

Ըստւեցաւ որ ընտանիքի մանրանկարն է եկեղեցին: Երէ չէ՝ պէտք է ըլլայ: Աստուած նախ ընտանիքը հիմնեց եւ նուիրագործեց զայն, ապա՝ եկեղեցին, եւ զայն ալ սրբագործեց: Երկունքն ալ Տէրունական եւ նուիրագործուած հաստատութիւններ են: Երկունքն ալ իրարմէ կախեալ եւ զիրար ամբողջացնող հաւատքի եւ աղօթի տուններ են: Երէ չե՞ն պէտք է ըլլան:

Մարդկային ընկերութիւնը կը կառուցուի անհատ ընտանիքներու բարերով: Երէ այդ ընտանիք-բարեր տոկուն չեն, բարոյապէս եւ հոգեւորապէս քրծուած կրակով, այդ ընկերութիւնը կրնայ ուշ կամ կանուխ վլուզումի ենթարկուիլ:

Նոյնպէս, իրաւ եկեղեցին կը կառուցուի հաւատացեալ անհատներու եւ ընտանիքներու համախմբումով: Երէ ընտանիքներ առանց քրիստոնէական հաւատքի փորձառութիւնը ունենալու եկեղեցի կը կազմեն, բնաւ պէտք չէ զարմանալ երբ նման չակերտուած եկեղեցիներ օր մը դառնան վէններու եւ վիճաբնութիւններու բոյներ:

Հոգեւոր կեանքը հաւատքի եւ քրիստոնէական սիրոյ կեանք է եւ իր ծնունդը կ'առնէ հաւատացեալ ընտանիքէն, կ'անի ու կը զօրանայ եկեղեցիի մթնուրտին մէջ: Անկէ՝ նոր սերունդներու միջոցով կը փոխանցուի նոր ընտանիքներու, ինչպէս մարդկային մարմինն մէջ արինը իր շրջանը կը կատարէ:

Հայ ժողովուրդի պատմութիւնը կը վկայէ որ աւանդական Հայ Ընտանիքը եղած է աստուածավախ, հաւատացեալ եւ Քրիստոսի եկեղեցիի մանրանկարը ցոլացնող ընտանիք: Այնտեղ Աստուծոյ Խօսքը, աղօթքը, եկեղեցի յանախնելը, պաշտամունքն ու պատարագը հիմնական եւ առաջնահերթ տեղ ունեցած են: Ասոր համար, մեր ազգային ինքնութիւնն ալ պատմութեան ընթացքին բնորոշուած է աստուածաշնչական աստուածնիշներով: Ուրեմն, Հայ Ընտանիքը կը բնորոշուի իր քրիստոնէական նկարագրով եւ յատկանիշներով: Այլ խօսքով, կարելի չէ իրաւ Հայ Ընտանիք պատկերացնել առանց քրիստոնէական հաւատքի:

Այս իմաստով, Հայ Ընտանիքը է՛ նաև հայ ազգային ինքնութիւնը պահող եւ պաշտպանող միջնաբնիքը: Դարեւ շարունակ, մեր հոգեւոր, բարոյական եւ ազգային արժէքներուն գանձարանը եղած է հայ ընտանիքը: Ասոր համար հայ ընտանիք մը կորսցնելը մեզի համար պարզ թիւի կորուստ չէ, այլ՝ ազգային, բարոյական եւ հոգեւոր արժէքներու կորուստ մը:

Այսօր, ֆիշ մը ամէն տեղ, ընդունուած իրողութիւն է որ Հայ եկեղեցին շատ տկար իրավիճակ մը կը ներկայացնէ հոգեւորապէս: Այս տխուր իրողութիւնը կը հաստատն կիրակի առաւտեան պատարագներուն եւ պաշտամունքներուն ընթացքին մեծ թիւով նստարաններուն պարապ մնալը: Վիճակագրութիւններ ցոյց կու տան թէ այսօր, Սփիւրքի տարածքին, կիրակի օրեր եկեղեցի յանախնող հայերու թիւր հինգ տոկոսի չի հասնիր: Հայ եկեղեցիները հոգեւորապէս տկարացած

DR. ALEXANDER ABASHIAN

Dr. Alexander Abashian was the son of immigrant parents who came to the United States from Musa Ler and Kessab. He passed away on February 12, 2014 in Baltimore, MD. He was 83.

After receiving his Ph.D. in Physics from Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Abashian went on to become internationally recognized and respected for his work in the field of particle physics. Dr. Abashian was a professor at several institutions including U.C. Berkeley, the University of Illinois, and Virginia Tech where he also served as head of the Physics Department. He also worked for the federal government as part of the National Science Foundation, serving as Program Director for Elementary Particle Physics and was part of a Nuclear Research Project in Japan while he was at the University of Illinois. In the early 2000s, he worked as the Director of the CANDLE Project to help restore scientific efforts and Programs in Armenia.

Dr. Abashian was a supporter of the student loan program at the American University of Armenia and supported the Child Sponsorship Program sponsored by the AMAA.

Dr. Abashian was the beloved father of Rebecca Cornell (Allen), Philip Abashian (Lesley), Kim Sanders (Blair), and the late Lisa Abashian; loving grandfather of Christopher, Caroline, Casey, Riley, Matthew, and Grace; great-grandfather of Farmer; brother of Rose Blackburn, Violet Breckenridge, and his brothers and sisters who preceded him in death, Sarah Markarian, Laura Soghoian, Steve Abashian and Peter Abashian. The funeral service and interment were held on February 18 in Glenwood, MD.

The family requests that donations be made in his memory to the Armenian Missionary Association of America. □

ALICE GEDIKIAN

Alice (Armaven) Mooradian Gedikian joyfully celebrated her 100th birthday on January 2, 2014 with family and friends. She gently slipped away just two days later, surrounded by her loved ones.



After emigrating from Samsun, Turkey to the United States as a young child with her war-widowed mother and sisters, she was blessed with the supportive love of her family. Her journey carried her from Portland, ME to Detroit, MI to Pasadena, CA and then to Arcadia, CA, where she enjoyed her final years.

With her husband, Aram, she was the co-proprietor of Pasadena's Shoetorium Shoe Repair from 1961 until her retirement in 1997 at age 83. Widowed at age 59, Alice became active in the Chamber of Commerce and numerous women's business groups, and was featured in local publications for her positive ongoing efforts within her community.

A living faith and strong affiliation with her church sustained Alice throughout her life. Her Christian faith enriched her and filled her with great joy, both in Detroit in the Armenian Congregational Church where she was active in the Choir and Ladies Aid; and later in Pasadena, where she supported the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church by serving as Deaconess, Choir member, and Dorcas Guild President. She helped initiate the Camp AREV program of Southern California, supported AMAA causes and was a longtime member of the AGBU, the Daughters of Vartan and the Ararat Guild, working tirelessly for causes close to her heart.

Alice will be remembered by all who enjoyed their time with her as a ray of God's light, whose abiding faith and trust, love of her family, and sparkle of good humor and optimism carried her through her final years with a joyful heart.

She is survived by her daughters, Janice Barile (Dennis), Olivia Johnson (Andrew), Lisa Yeghiyan (Mike); grandchildren, Christopher Johnson (Renee), Alyssa Johnson, Michael Yeghiyan, Aimee Yeghiyan; great-grandsons, Zander and Desmond Johnson, loving cousins, nieces, and nephews. A memorial service was held on January 11 at the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church.

Memorial donations may be made in her name to the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church or Camp AREV. □

HARRY KOUNDAKJIAN

"My future is today. I'll always have a camera around my neck, even when I'm buried. It's been a productive career, one rich in satisfaction and joy. Every day is still a fresh adventure."

-Harry "The Horse" Koundakjian



Veteran photojournalist, retired Associated Press International photo-editor and long-time member of the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York, Harry Koundakjian passed away on April 21, 2014, at a Manhattan hospital from complications of open heart surgery he had in February. He was 83.

Harry has been termed the father of photojournalism in the Middle East. He began his career in 1952 when he joined the Beirut-based French-language newspaper *L'Orient* and its sister Arabic publication *Jarida* as the first press photographer in Lebanon.

At the same time Harry freelanced for *Magazine* and *Ousbou el-Arabi* weeklies of Beirut, where he had more than 300 cover picture-stories for *Time* and *Life* magazines and *The Associated Press, Paris Match, France-Soir* as well as *Dalmas* and *Keystone* photo agencies of France, *Illustrated London News* magazine, *The Daily Mail* and *The Daily Express* and *The London Times*, and *The Guardian*.

He joined *The Associated Press* in Beirut in 1966 and covered all Middle East events, from military coups d'état to royal weddings and deaths, earthquakes in Turkey, Iran, and Morocco, a cyclone in East Pakistan, and more. Harry covered the Lebanon crisis from 1973 until 1979, when he was transferred to the New York City headquarters of the *Associated Press* as a multilingual photo editor.

Being Armenian and neutral in Middle East conflicts, he was the only remaining photo-editor during and after the Munich Olympic massacre. He covered Miss Europe pageants during five years in Beirut, as well as the Pope's first visits to Jerusalem, East Pakistan and Turkey. He traveled with Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and Cyrus Vance in the presidential aircraft during their shuttles to make peace between Arabs and Israel. He visited West Africa where he accompanied Pat Nixon during her "goodwill" tour and was supervising photo-editor for the Asian Olympics in Tehran. His photos of Pope Paul VI praying, Yasser Arafat embracing refugee children, and King Hussein's wedding won him several prizes.

Harry is survived by his beloved wife Aida, son Vicken, daughter Lola and brother Phillip and his wife Sona of Sarnia, ON, Canada. Funeral services were held on April 26 at the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York. □

MARIE MELIDONIAN

Marie Melidonian with her two loving children at her bedside, passed away at the age of 91 on May 3, 2014 at her home in San Diego, CA. Marie was born on September 16, 1922 in Bitias, Mousa Dagh to Manoog and Horick Kludjian. She was the oldest of four siblings Ohannes (deceased), Alice who resides in New Jersey and Sosi who resides in Lebanon.





Marie and Bedros Melidonian were married in 1938 and lived in Beirut, Lebanon for 14 years. In 1952 they immigrated to the United States with their three young children Sona, George and Jirar and made New Jersey their new home. For 42 years members of the Melidonian family were faithful parishioners in good standing of the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ.

In 1994, Bedros, Marie and Sona moved to San Diego, CA to be closer to their sons. In 1998, after 60 years of marriage with his beloved Marie, Bedros passed away.

Marie was the matriarch of the family and was loved and adored by all. She possessed that rare and special type of personality and magnetism that is a God given gift and she selflessly used that gift to help her family, her relatives and people in need.

Marie was an extraordinary woman with a multitude of talents and gifts. In addition, she was an excellent seamstress and gourmet cook as well. She was a very loving, caring and thoughtful individual practicing Christian values and principles, day in and day out with the mindset "you reap what you sow."

Marie will be missed by her surviving children Sona and Jirar, her grandchild Matthew, family members, and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the Melidonian family respectfully requests that any donation in the memory of Marie Melidonian be made to the Armenian Missionary Association of America in the name of The Bedros and

Marie Melidonian Endowment Fund. This Fund was established to help the indigent elderly people in Armenia. □

GLADYS YESSAYAN CRETAN

Gladys Yessayan Cretan passed away on April 15, 2014 in San Mateo, CA. She was 92.

Gladys was born in Reedley, CA to parents, Annig Kelesian Yessayan and Rev. Vahan Yessayan, who were educated and met at the American Missionary School For Girls and Anatolia College in Marzovan, Turkey. They emigrated to the United States during the Armenian Genocide of World War I, and settled in Oakland, CA. They were among the founders of the Bethany Armenian Congregational Church, where her father served as Pastor until his death. Gladys grew up at the center of that warm and supportive congregation, a joy she treasured her entire life. Her musical talent led to her role as the church pianist. There she met her future husband, Clarence Cretan.

In 1955, the family moved to San Mateo, where Clarence and Gladys opened Cretan Jewelers. They also joined the First Congregational Church of San Mateo, which became a center of their lives for many decades. They maintained close relationships with their longtime Armenian friends through the Oakland church, the Calvary Armenian



Congregational Church in San Francisco, and their active participation in the Knights and Daughters of Vartan.

Gladys was active in the local civil rights movement through her participation in the Peninsula Council of Churches. She also became the first Executive Director of the San Mateo Foundation, which grew into the Peninsula Community Foundation and later merged into the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. She served as the Director of the development campaign to establish the San Mateo Center for the Performing Arts. Near the end of her life, she was honored as a community hero by the Peninsula Interfaith Alliance.

Perhaps the crowning achievement of her professional life was the publication of over a dozen books of children's literature. Her first book, *A Gift From the Bride*, was dedicated to her mother and told the story of a young Armenian girl in the old country who dreamed of learning to read. The book, *Sunday for Sona*, told her own story of growing up in the Bay Area, and the struggle to balance her strong cultural and familial ties with the excitement of her American life.

Gladys is survived by her sons Clifford (Patricia) and Larry (Mary Clare), her five grandchildren, Jenny (Darren), Cindy (Benjamin), Jeff (Julie), Aram and Joel, and six great-grandchildren.

The family requests that memorial donations may be made to the AMAA or the First Congregational Church of San Mateo. □

ԸՆՏԱՆԻՔ ԵՒ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ... Ծարունակուուած Եջ 29-ԷԿ

Են, որովհետեւ հայ ընտանիքները տկարացած են իրենց հոգեւոր կեանքին մէջ: Ո՞վ պիտի կատարէ քրիստոնէական դաստիարակութիւն շամքելու եւ ընտանիքները հոգեւորապէս արքնցնելու կենսական ու նակատագրական գործը, եթէ ոչ դարձեալ ինք՝ եկեղեցին: Երբ ընտանիքներ վարժ չեն եկեղեցի գալու, եկեղեցին ինք պէտք է նոր միջոցներ ստեղծէ, ծառայութեան նոր դրութիւն մը՝ երթալու, գտնելու և Յիսուսի օրինակով փարախ բերելու իր կորսուած ոչխարճերը:

Այսօր, ամէն ժամանակէ աւելի, եկեղեցի եւ ընտանիք սերտ գործակցութեան կը կարօտին, եթէ կ'ուզենք հայ ընտանիքը հայ քրիստոնեայ պահել, որպէս մեր ընտանեկան, բարոյական, ազգային եւ կրօնական արժէքներուն միջնարերդն ու գանձարանը: Մեծ անգիտութիւն, է չըսելու համար տգիտութիւն, ծնորդի մը կողմէ եկեղեցիի եւ անոր քրիստոնէական դաստիարակութեան հանդէպ անտարբեր եւ կրաւրական կեցուածք ցուցաբերելը, մանաւանդ երբ ընտանիքն ներս դաստիարակութեան կարօտ դեռատի զաւակներ կան:

Ուրեմն, եզրակացնելու համար պէտք է հարց տալ, թէ կիրակի օր, որ Տէրունական օր կը նկատուի, իբրև յ

ընտանիք ի՞նչ բանի նախապատութիւն տալը օրէնքն եւ սկզբունքի վերածած ենք մեր ընտանեկան կեանքն ներս: Աւելի երկար քննանա՞լը, սովորականին պէս գործի երթագործը, թէ՞ ընտանիքի անդամները ազատ գործը իրենց ուղածը ընելու այդ օրուան ընթացքին: Դժբախտարար շատ ժիշ են այս ընտանիքները, որոնք կիրակի օր ընտանեօթ եկեղեցի յանախելու նախապատութիւն կու տան: Արդեօթ մասնաւոր դժուարութիւններ եւ պատճառներ կա՞ն ընտանեօթ եկեղեցի չյանախելու:

Հայ ազգային մշահոգութիւններէն ամենեն հիմնական ու կենսականը Հայ Ընտանիքը Հայ քրիստոնեայ պահելը պէտք է ըլլայ, զայն իր ազգային եւ եկեղեցական քանիզակին ու անփիխարինելի ժառանգութեան գիտակից եւ տէր դարձնելով: Անկէ ետք շատ դիւրին կրնայ ըլլալ Հայ եկեղեցին, Հայ Դպրոցը, Հայ Դատն ու Հայ Կելրոնը կամ այլ հաստատութիւններ գօրացնելը ու կենսունակ դարձնելը: Սփիւրքի աննպաստ պայմաններուն մէջ եթէ Հայ Ընտանիքը կորսնցնենք, այդ կը նշանակէ որ ազգային եւ եկեղեցական ամէն տեսակի կարելիութեանց ակն ու աղբիւրը կը փակնենք: Մեր կարեւոր ուժերը պէտք է կեդրոնացնենք Հայ Ընտանիքը Հայ քրիստոնեայ պահելու նակատին վրայ: □



Armenian Missionary Association of America
31 West Century Road
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OFFICIAL CALL TO THE 95TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

The 95th Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. at the Headquarters of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652. All members of the AMAA are invited to attend the Meeting to:

- I. Consider and approve the reports of the Officers, Committees, Chapters and Affiliated Boards of the Association for the fiscal year 2013-2014;
- II. Review the financial reports for the fiscal year 2013-2014;
- III. Announce the names of the newly elected Board members;
- IV. Elect members to the Nominating Committee;
- V. Elect an Auditor; and
- VI. Consider and address any other business that may come before the membership.

PROGRAM OF THE 95TH ANNUAL MEETING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Thursday, October 16 at the AMAA Headquarters, Paramus, NJ

6:00 pmDinner
7:00 pmArmenian Evangelical World Council Meeting

Friday, October 17 at the AMAA Headquarters, Paramus, NJ

9:30 amArmenian Evangelical World Council Meeting
12:00 pmLunch
2:00 pmArmenian Evangelical World Council Meeting
6:00 pmDinner
7:00 pmAMAA Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, October 18 at the AMAA Headquarters, Paramus, NJ

9:30 am95th Annual Meeting
12:30 pmLunch
1:30 pmAMAA Board of Directors Meeting (Short Session)

Saturday, October 18 at DoubleTree in Fort Lee, NJ

6:30 pmReception
7:30 pmBanquet

Sunday, October 19 at the Armenian Presbyterian Church, 140 Forest Avenue, Paramus, NJ

11:00 am95th Annual Meeting Worship Service and installation of AMAA Officers